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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/594,244	09/25/2006	Akio Sekimoto	295770US-40X PCT	2189
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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
CHACKO DAVIS, DABORAH				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1795				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
02/09/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/594,244

Applicant(s)

SEKIMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

DABORAH CHACKO DAVIS

Art Unit

1795

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/08, 09/06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 6, 10-11, 13-21, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 5,254,435 (Grandmont et al., hereinafter referred to as Grandmont).

Grandmont, in the abstract, in col 3, lines 1-62, in col 5, lines 5-45, in col 6, lines 18-68, in col 7, lines 1-34, in col 8, lines 1-67, discloses forming a solder mask by providing means (in a system) for forming a photosensitive strippable film (carrier film) on one side of a resist layer (resist layer formed by a coater that coats the surface with a resist layer or photoimageable ink layer) (dielectric layer), drying the resist layer (dielectric film in a heating unit i.e., a dryer), laminating the resist layer (dielectric layer, laminating done by a laminating device) to a substrate (with a circuit pattern), and exposing the resist layer (in an exposing unit) through an insitu mask through the strippable film to form an exposed resist layer, removing the strippable film (i.e., carrier film removed by a remover, cover sheet, or release paper, or laser drilling through holes), developing the exposed resist, followed by heating (curing in a curing unit) to form a solder mask on the substrate or electroplating the through holes with conductive material to form a circuit pattern (tin-clad copper pattern) (claims 1, 18-19, and 21).

Grandmont, in col 5, lines 7-8, discloses that the resist layer is formed in a continuous form (reference 24 of figure 1A) (claim 2). Grandmont, in col 6, lines 63-68, and in col 7, lines 1-11, discloses that the photoimageable layer has a plurality of separate portions (see figures 5B through 5C). Grandmont, in col 9, lines 58-68, in col 10, lines 1-4, and in figures 17C through 17E, discloses that the upper side of the resist is in contact with the substrate prior to lamination (claims 3-4, 6). Grandmont, in col 5, lines 12-19, discloses that interposing the substrate to the resist layer portions includes hot roll laminating the resist and cover film sheet to form a composite structure, followed by roll lamination of the composite structure and the substrate to form a resist coated substrate (claims 10-11). Grandmont, in col 1, lines 25-27, and lines 34-35, and in col 2, lines 67-68, discloses that the substrate can be either a board structure (flexible printed wiring or circuit board) or a rigid printed circuit board (copper foil clad epoxy fiberglass substrate) (claims 13-16, and 20). Grandmont, in col 1, lines 34-35, in col 6, lines 65-68, in col 7, lines 25-33, discloses that substrate is a dielectric layer provided with a circuit pattern (see figure 5F) (claim 17).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 5, 7-9, are allowable over the prior art of record (U. S. Patent No. 5,254,435 (Grandmont et al)) because the prior art does not teach cutting the photoimageable resist layer into a plurality of resist layer film bearing portions prior to lamination of the resist layer to the one side of the substrate, and the prior art does not disclose folding into two a leading edge portion of the photoimageable resist layer bearing film to form a

sandwich of the substrate between the photoimageable resist layer portions prior to the lamination of the resist layer to the substrate. Claim 12, is allowable over the prior art of record (U. S. Patent No. 5,254,435 (Grandmont et al)).

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daborah Chacko-Davis whose telephone number is (571) 272-1380. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 - 6:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark F Huff can be reached on (571) 272-1385. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Daborah Chacko-Davis/
Examiner, Art Unit 1795

February 2, 2009.